

## It's Smart To Be Gallery Wise!

## THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

## AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

N E W S                      F L A S H E S

February 1 - 16,                      1 9 3 6

LOAN EXHIBITION: For the month of February, the Loan Galleries will be installed with a group of Oriental Rugs, including examples from Persia, Asia Minor, the Caucasus, Turkomania, and India. They are lent by H. Michaelyan of New York City, and the collection will be augmented by two seventeenth century Hunting Rugs from the Kirkwood Collection.

In the foreword of the catalogue for the exhibition, Mr. Michaelyan says "As distinct from economic and utilitarian points of view, in fact transcending them, Oriental Rugs stand out undiminished in their luster as symbols of love and religious faith. Appearing in the early ages of civilization as a rough concession to warmth and comfort, the rug has become one of the most effective mediums of man's culture and artistry, so that today we count it worthy of adoration in our homes, churches and museums".

A group of nineteenth century Persian Rugs includes such weaves as Shiraz, Fereghan, Serebend, Joshagan and Sena. From Asia Minor comes a Star Oushak which was formerly in the McMullan Collection, and which dates from the 16th century. There are a number of prayer rugs with their distinctive mihrabs and with the individual design element which may have been inspired by the original mosque lamp which hung in the niche which was the prototype of these rugs.

An outstanding example of rug making is an Indian Family Prayer Rug of the seventeenth century which is exceptionally large. It is purely Indian with little Persian influence, and shows seven mihrab arches on the main field, which would accommodate seven worshippers.

A fine Indo-Ispahan Rug dating also from the seventeenth century has a field of cherry red scattered with jasmine and violets, much like the mille fleures tapestries of the middle ages. Perhaps the earliest rug is a Gothic Spanish Carpet of the sixteenth century, which has a beautiful field of ashes of roses, and winged birds on the pale green border.

The exhibition will afford an excellent opportunity to study all types of Oriental Rugs. A descriptive catalogue which will be available in the loan galleries will add much to the enjoyment and understanding of the examples shown.

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PRINTS: Gallery XVI has been hung with a group of prints by Contemporary American artists, lent from the collections of Miss Frances M. Logan and Mr. Robert B. Fizzell. The graphic work of such artists as Heintzelman and Benson, Arms and Chamberlain will be included. The Gallery is extremely grateful for the generosity of Miss Logan and Mr. Fizzell which is making possible these exhibitions of contemporary print makers.

STEAMBOAT PRINTS: Owing to the great popularity of the group of steamboat prints hung in Gallery XV in connection with the recent lecture on Steamboat Gothic given by Mr. Harold Stark, this exhibition will remain on view through the second of February. Included are not only early plates of Kansas City, Saint Joseph, and Saint Louis, with typical steamboats plying up and down the rivers, but there is also a very fine sepia wash drawing of the Steamboat Missouri, which comes from England and may have been the work of some visitor from that country who saw the Middle West from the deck of just such a boat. There is a fine colored proof of that most popular subject, "The Race of the Natchez and the Eclipse" lent by Mr. Wesley H. Loomis, Junior, from whose collection is also included "Wooding up" on the Mississippi".



PHOTOGRAPHS OF INDIA: For the month of February Gallery XV will be hung with a group of superb photographs of India made by Fritz Henle. A young German artist, Mr. Henle was trained in the School of Photography in Munich, and has worked with Professor Clarence Kennedy of Smith College who is at present photographing the sculpture in American Museums for the Carnegie Foundation. This group of thirty-five enlargements, mostly of architecture and sculptural subjects, was made during a recent trip to India and have been shown in the Baltimore, Buffalo, and San Francisco Museums.

DRAWINGS: Gallery XIII has been installed with a group of drawings from all schools, from the permanent collection. Our drawings have not been on view since this summer and it will be a pleasure to see some of the finest examples again.

There is a distinct growth in the interest in drawings all over the United States. For centuries in Europe they have been most popular items, particularly with the private collector, but it is only in recent years that America has come to appreciate them. The Buffalo Museum held a most important exhibition of them last year, and now the Lyman Allyn Museum of New London, Connecticut, is arranging one to which our fine Claude Lorrain has been invited. Most interesting of all are the negotiations which have been going on between the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Albertina in Vienna, whereby many of the great Dürer, Leonardo, and Raphael drawings of the latter collection may come to America.

THE CHINESE EXHIBITION: Mr. Laurence Sickman, Curator of the Oriental Department, has just returned from six weeks spent in London at the great Chinese Exhibition to which so many of our finest objects in that field were lent.

His first lecture after his return will be given in the Atkins Auditorium on Wednesday Evening, February 5th, and his subject will be the Exhibition and its contribution to the knowledge of the whole field. He is bringing with him from London a number of slides of the installation of the many priceless objects which were shown, and the lecture will be of great interest to all. Do not forget that the Gallery is open Wednesday evenings in connection with these lectures, from seven to ten, and that there is no admission charge to the Gallery or the lectures.

In connection with his talk, the Masterpiece of the Week for February 2nd will be our fine Japanese Wooden Bodhisattva from the Konin Period of the ninth century. There was very little stone in the Japanese Islands and they developed an excellent technique of carving wood. The early examples in this medium are very rare, and few have been allowed to leave the country. Our example is one of only three or four of this type in America.

WILLIAM AND MARY CABINET: The Restoration of Charles II in England in 1660 saw a return to the love of luxury and beauty that had been held in abeyance during the Protectorate. When the Royal Exiles returned they brought with them the elaborate furniture of the Continent which replaced the more sober Jacobean pieces. At first the foreign influence was French, then with the coming of William and Mary in 1689, it became Dutch, and we see introduced the fine veneer and marquetry for which that country was famous.

Palaces were rebuilt and entirely refurnished in the new style, and it is from this period that our Masterpiece of the Week for February 9th, a Walnut William and Mary Cabinet with Stand, dates. A gift to the permanent collection by Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Burnap, it comes from Hamilton Palace and is not only an outstanding example of the so-called Age of Walnut, but fills an important gap between our Jacobean pieces and the later Queen Anne and Chippendale furniture of the Georgian Room. With the exception of the rare Gothic period, our progression of English furniture is now complete to the Adam and Hepplewhite styles of the early 1800's.

ORIENTAL RUGS: In connection with the loan exhibition of Oriental Rugs, Miss Hughes will give a lecture Wednesday Evening, February 12th in the Atkins Auditorium on this fascinating field of the decorative arts. The history of this craft, the fascinating knotting of the weaving, and the development of the elements of design will be thoroughly discussed, with emphasis on the rare examples in the loan exhibition.



Feb. 1-16, 1936

GIFTS TO PRINT COLLECTION: The Woodcut Society, through its Director, Mr. H. A. Fowler, has presented to the Print Department of the Gallery, a portfolio of the complete publications of the Society. This includes "Southern Scene" by Lankes, "Vista Lake" by Phillips, "Saint Francis Preaching to the Birds" by Lewis, "The Net Menders" by Clare Leighton, "Upland Pastures" by Nason, "Phantoms" by Bresslern-Roth, "Pheasant and Wisteria" by Lionel Lindsay, and "Manuel of Tesuque" by Treva Wheete. They are most appreciated additions to our group of contemporary prints.

From Mr. Willard Hoagland has come the gift of fourteen wood engravings of the "Stations of the Cross" by the English artist, Eric Gill. They are translations in this medium of the artist's carvings of the stations in the Westminster Cathedral in London. Gill is perhaps better known as a sculptor, but has contributed many plates to the field of graphic art, plates usually cut on wood and having a strong plastic feeling.

SUNDAY CONCERT: The February concert by Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota will be given on Sunday, the 16th, at three-thirty in the Atkins Auditorium. The program will be built around the current loan exhibition of Oriental Rugs.

CHILDRENS' ACTIVITIES: A new series of demonstration tours, devoted to tapestries and weaving in general, will begin on February 11th for the sixth grade school children.

The Junior League recently offered a prize of a book for the best soap carving made in the Saturday morning class in General Crafts. Edmund Runner, age 11, was the winner with a miniature Chinese guardian lion, modeled after one of the pair which guard the entrance to the Chinese Gallery.

Mansur Masden, also a member of the Saturday classes, was the winner of a color print of our Copley "Portrait of Sir George Cooke", given by the Gallery to the one identifying the greatest number of paintings from the collection. The children were shown slides of eight paintings and Mansur was able to name all of them.

CONVENTION VISITORS: On January 23rd a large group of visitors from the Western Fruit Jobbers Convention visited the Gallery under the guidance of Mr. Freeman of the Staff. Some of this group had come from as far away as California.

The wives of the members of the Southwestern Lumbermen's Convention were guests at the Gallery on January 30th. This was their second visit, as they came to the Gallery last year and enjoyed it so much that they asked to come again.

#### LECTURE SCHEDULE

Gallery Tours	Feb.	4 - Masterpiece of the Week	
Feb. 1 - 16	"	5 - Classical Art	- Mr. Freeman
at 2 p.m. No	"	6 - Chinese Bronzes and	- Mr. Sickman
charge to join		Painting	
them.	"	7 - Prints	- Mr. Wittmann
	"	10 - Masterpiece of the Week	
	"	11 - Near Eastern Art	- Miss Hughes
	"	12 - Chinese Sculpture and	- Mr. Sickman
		Temple	
	"	13 - Italian and Spanish	- Mr. Freeman
		Painting	
Evening Lectures	- Feb. 5	- Exhibition of Chinese	
8 p.m. in Atkins		Art in London	- Mr. Sickman
Auditorium. No			
admission charge	Feb. 12	- Oriental Rugs	- Miss Hughes